



1999 Colorado Equine



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The 1999 Colorado Equine Survey accounted for 145,000 head of equine (horses, donkeys, and mules) located in the state on January 1, 1999. Jefferson County had the largest number, totaling 10,000 head; followed by Weld County with 9,200 head; Douglas County with 9,000 head; Boulder County tallying 8,800 head; and Larimer County with 8,600 head. Together, these 5 "Front Range" counties accounted for nearly one-third of the equine in the state. Quarter horses accounted for 70,000 head, representing nearly half of the total equine in the state, followed by Arabians and Half Arabians at 12,000 head. American Paint and Thoroughbreds accounted for 10,000 and 9,000 head, respectively. Survey respondents did not or were unable to identify specific breeds on a total of 17,500 head. It is assumed that a large portion of these are Quarter Horses or Quarter Horse crosses.

Equine were located on an estimated 20,000 individual "places" (for the purposes of this survey, called "operations"). Twelve thousand (60%) of these operations were classified as farms and/or ranches and 5,200 (26%) were classified as strictly private residences. NASS defines a farm/ranch as any operation that markets or has the potential to market \$1,000 or more of agricultural products in a given year, or any place with 5 or more equine regardless of sales.

The estimated value of Colorado's equine on January 1, 1999 was nearly \$385 million. The average value per head was \$2,653. The average value per head was highest in the northeast and east central districts of the state which include the Front Range. The value of all equine related assets (excluding commercial race tracks and public facilities) totaled nearly \$4.4 billion. Land was by far the largest asset, valued at \$2.9 billion (two-thirds of the total.)

Equine income from sales and related equine/agricultural activities during 1998 totaled \$130 million. Trail riding/guiding and outfitters/guest services were the largest income generating enterprises, accounting for \$40 million (30.8%). Income from boarding was second, at \$36 million (27.7%), while sales of equine accounted for \$21 million (16.2%).

Equine related expenditures during 1998 totaled an estimated \$300 million. Purchases of feed and bedding accounted for the largest expenditures, at \$60 million. Labor costs accounted for \$50 million, while \$27.1 million was expended for the purchase of equine, and \$23 million was spent on boarding costs. Expenses of commercial racing and show facilities and public facilities were not included in this survey.

Funding for this project was provided by the Colorado Horse Development Authority under a federal cooperative reimbursable agreement with USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS). Special appreciation is extended to the Colorado Horse Development Authority, the Colorado Horseman's Council and Colorado State University Extension Service for assistance in the list building phase of the survey and for their input into the design of the survey questionnaire.

The Colorado Equine Survey was conducted in two phases. Phase 1 took place in late 1997 and throughout 1998 as a comprehensive list building effort. Phase 2 took place in 1999 and focused on data collection and summarization. The Colorado Equine Survey was designed to supplement a National probability based survey conducted by USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service in January 1999. The National Equine Survey was designed to provide state level statistics on equine inventory and sales. The Colorado Equine Survey was designed to be conducted on a non-probability basis to provide detailed economic and demographic statistics that could be applied to the probability based statistics obtained from the National Survey.

Total equine inventory by county and district, Colorado, January 1, 1999

County/District	Total Inventory <u>1/</u>	Rank <u>2/</u>	County/District	Total Inventory <u>1/</u>	Rank <u>2/</u>
	Number			Number	
Chaffee	1,600	24*	Archuleta	2,100	20*
Clear Creek	300	56	Delta	6,800	6*
Eagle	1,400	29	Dolores	500	50*
Gilpin	200	61*	Garfield	4,700	11
Grand	2,100	20*	Hinsdale	300	56*
Gunnison	1,900	23	La Plata	6,800	6*
Jackson	1,300	30*	Mesa	5,000	10
Lake	200	61*	Montezuma	3,100	16
Moffat	2,600	18	Montrose	3,500	13*
Park	1,300	30*	Ouray	600	44*
Pitkin	900	39*	San Juan
Rio Blanco	2,000	22	San Miguel	600	44*
Routt	3,000	17	Southwest	34,000	...
Summit	400	53*	Alamosa	800	41*
Teller	800	41*	Conejos	1,500	27*
N W and Mountain	20,000	...	Costilla	400	53*
Boulder	8,800	4	Mineral	300	56*
Jefferson	10,000	1	Rio Grande	900	39*
Larimer	8,600	5	Saguache	1,100	33*
Logan	1,600	24*	San Luis Valley	5,000	...
Morgan	1,300	30*	Baca	700	43
Sedgwick	500	50*	Bent	600	44*
Weld	9,200	2	Crowley	600	44*
Northeast	40,000	...	Custer	1,100	33*
Adams	3,500	13*	Fremont	2,500	19
Arapahoe	6,000	8	Huerfano	1,000	35*
Cheyenne	500	50*	Las Animas	1,600	24*
Denver	300	56*	Otero	1,500	27*
Douglas	9,000	3	Prowers	1,000	35*
Elbert	3,700	12	Pueblo	3,400	15
El Paso	5,100	9	Southeast	14,000	...
Kiowa	400	53*	State Total	145,000	...
Kit Carson	600	44*			
Lincoln	600	44*			
Phillips	300	56*			
Washington	1,000	35*			
Yuma	1,000	35*			
East Central	32,000	...			

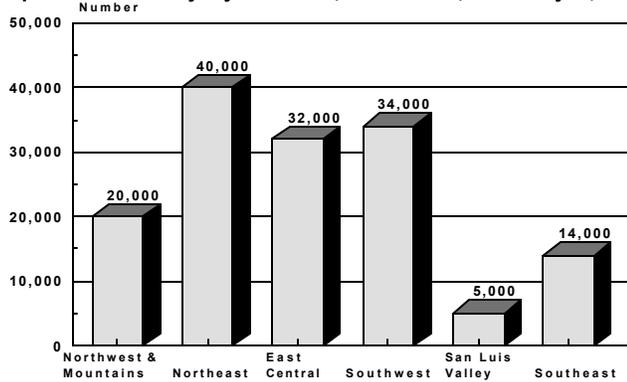
1/ Total inventory of horses, ponies, mules, donkeys, and burros both on farms and off farms.

2/ * indicates two or more counties have the same number.

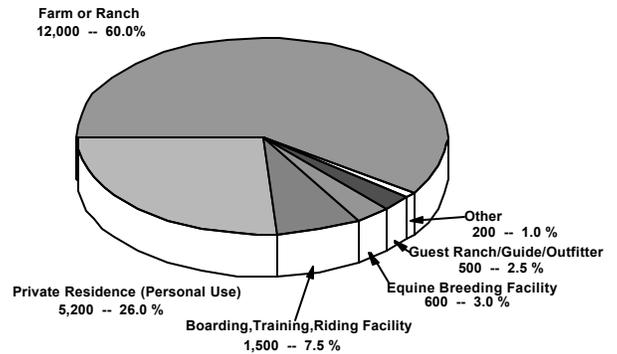
Equine inventory, value and average value per head by district, Colorado, January 1, 1999

District	Total Equine	Total Value	Average Value Per Head
	Number	Dollars	Dollars
Northwest and Mountains	20,000	39,000,000	1,950
Northeast	40,000	138,000,000	3,450
East Central	32,000	113,600,000	3,550
Southwest	34,000	57,800,000	1,700
San Luis Valley	5,000	8,250,000	1,650
Southeast	14,000	28,000,000	2,000
State	145,000	384,650,000	2,653

Equine Inventory by District, Colorado, January 1, 1999



Colorado Equine Operations, January 1, 1999
Number of Operations and Percent of Total by Type



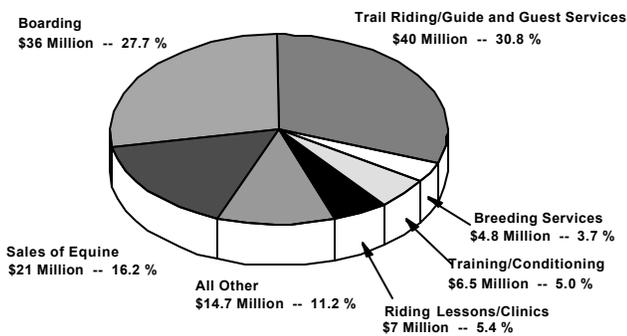
Equine sales, value of sales and average value per head, Colorado, 1998

District	Equine Sold	Total Value of Sales	Average Value Per Head
	Number	Dollars	Dollars
Northwest and Mountains	1,500	2,100,000	1,400
Northeast	5,300	9,020,000	1,700
East Central	2,200	4,620,000	2,100
Southwest	1,800	2,700,000	1,500
San Luis Valley	800	880,000	1,100
Southeast	1,400	1,680,000	1,200
State	13,000	21,000,000	1,615

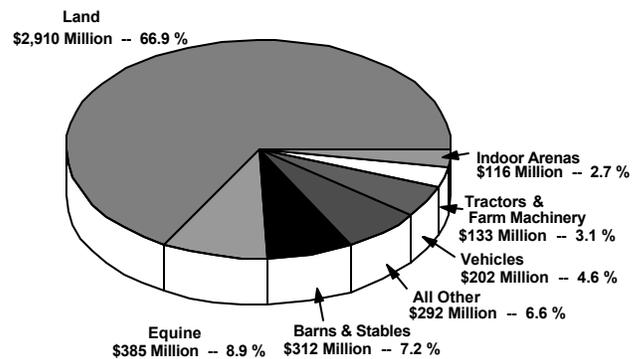
Equine operations by primary type of operation, Colorado, January 1, 1999

Type of Operation	Number of Operations	Percent of Total
	Number	Percent
Farm or Ranch	12,000	60.0
Private Residence (Personal Use)	5,200	26.0
Boarding, Training, Riding Facility	1,500	7.5
Equine Breeding Facility	600	3.0
Guest Ranch/Guide/Outfitters	500	2.5
Other	200	1.0
TOTAL	20,000	100.0

Equine Related Income, Colorado 1998
 Income and Percent of Total, Selected Items



Equine Related Assets, Colorado, January 1, 1999
 Asset Value and Percent of Total, Selected Items



Equine Owner Characteristics

Gender: 60% Males 40 % Females

Age of Owner:

Under 19	0.5 %
19 - 35	8.2 %
36-64	74.5 %
65 & Older	16.8 %
Average Age	51.7

Years of Equine Ownership:

Under 3 years	1.1 %
3 to 5 years	3.1 %
6 to 10 years	7.2 %
11 to 19 years	10.8 %
20 years or more	77.8 %
Average years of ownership	31.4

Education Level:

Less than High School	3.2 %
High School Diploma or GED	17.4 %
Some College/Technical School	32.3 %
Four Year College Degree	28.2 %
Advanced College Degree	18.9 %

This brief 4-page report includes some of the major highlights of the Equine survey which was conducted by the Colorado Agricultural Statistics Service. The full report has been made available to the Colorado Horse Development Authority and Colorado State University. Copies of the full report will also be made available to others upon request to this office.